

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 NRC-05 EB-07 AGR-05 /084 W

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R 260331Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 949

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CONFIDENTIAL WELLINGTON 0736

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NZ, PFOR, OVIP

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HABIB AND AMBASSADOR SELDEN MET WITH NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON FOR 45 MINUTES ON FEBRUARY 26. MULDOON WAS VERY RELAXED, AND CONVERSATION WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL.

2. MULDOON STATED THAT HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH VISITS OF NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS TO NEW ZEALAND PORTS. HE WOULD LIKE FOR US TO REQUEST A VISIT BY A SURFACE NPW IN AUGUST. THE GONZ WILL LET US KNOW WHICH PORT, AND WILL WORK OUT THE TECHNICAL DETAILS.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB SUGGESTED WAYS IN WHICH NEW ZEALAND COULD CONTINUE TO BE HELPFUL TO OUR COMMON INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. MULDOON SAID HE HAS NO PLANS TO BRING HOME THE NEW ZEALAND BATTALION NOW IN SINGAPORE.

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4. MULDOON COMMENTED THAT NEW ZEALAND'S ABILITY TO HELP DEPENDS ON ITS FINANCIAL POSITION, WHICH DEPENDS IN PART ON NEW ZEALAND'S EARNINGS FROM MEAT EXPORTS. HE MENTIONED THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD LIKE TO EXPORT MORE MEAT TO THE U.S., BUT DID NOT PRESS THE ISSUE.

5. MULDOON MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE, AND THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS IMPLICATIONS. HE WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH FIJI'S PRIME MINISTER RATU MARA DURING THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN NEW ZEALAND IN MARCH.

6. MULDOON SAID HE WILL BE TRAVELING TO SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN, THE PRC, LONDON, TO THE IMF MEETING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND TO THE COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN HONG KONG. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE U.S. AND SEE THE PRESIDENT IN 1977. HABIB SAID WE COULD NOT MAKE A COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME.

7. MULDOON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY U.S. AND NEW ZEALAND PARLIAMENTARIANS. ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SIR ROY JACK AND TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH MAJOR PARTY PLAN TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN MAY. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR WHITE IS WORKING ON THIS. (FYI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TALBOYS WROTE TO AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT ON JANUARY 23.)

8. MULDOON INDICATED THAT LABOR PARTY MIGHT WIN FORTHCOMING NELSON BY-ELECTION.
SELDEN

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NNN

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